development in the area. Hence, efforts are being made to further develop natural gas transportation network in the country, while no specific scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the same, as of now.

**Deregulation of prices of petroleum products**

†1744. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TTWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fixing of consumer sale prices of petroleum products in the country by Government, is being proposed to be deregulated;

(b) if so, when the proposal came up for consideration and by when it has been decided to be implemented; and

(c) for which petroleum products the fixing of sale price is outside Government control, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The Government abolished the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1st April 2002 and decided that pricing of all petroleum products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be market-determined. In order to provide PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG at affordable prices, the Government formulated subsidy schemes, which are in operation since April 2002.

To protect the consumer and the economy from the increasing price volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices since 2004-05, Government is, however, modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene as an administrative measure.

Except the prices of four sensitive petroleum products, the prices of all other petroleum products are determined by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, based on commercial considerations.

**Exploration of crude oil and natural gas**

†1745.SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exploration of reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the country is an ongoing process;

(b) the number of crude oil and natural gas reserves found in the country till June, 2009, with available quantity of crude oil and natural gas; and

(c) the annual average crude oil and natural gas produced by public sector oil companies during the last five years, and the quantity produced in the private sector?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.4.2009 initial in place Oil and Gas reserves established by ONGC, OIL and Private JV Companies are 9550 MMTOE. Balance crude oil reserves are 730.07 MMT and Natural Gas reserves are 1117.73 BCM.

(c) The annual average crude oil production in last five year, by Public Sector Oil Companies was 27.071 MMT. In the corresponding period, average Natural gas production by Public Sector Oil Companies was 24.771 BCM per annum. The annual average crude oil and natural gas production by Private/JV Companies was 4.69 MMT and 7.38 BCM respectively.

**Increase in prices of diesel and petrol**

1746. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced an increase in prices of diesel and petrol recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would affect the common people very badly, who are already facing price rise of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In view of the rising international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) were projected to suffer heavy under-recoveries of Rs.49,266 crore during 2009-10, on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, based on the Refinery Gate Prices effective 1.7.2009. To meet the under-recovery, the retail prices of four sensitive petroleum products were required to be increased by Rs.6.94 per litre on Petrol, Rs.4.11 per litre on Diesel, Rs. 16.01 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs.96.68 per 14.2 kg Domestic LPG cylinder. However, the Government has marginally increased the prices of Petrol by Rs.4/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre only.

The retail prices of Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, which are used by the common man for cooking and lighting needs, have not been increased.

Government is closely monitoring the international oil price situation and will take appropriate pricing decisions to protect the interest of the common man, particularly the vulnerable sections of society.